

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 21, 1850.

The subscribers to the *National Era* in Cincinnati, as their terms expire, will be called upon by our Agent, Mr. John Adams, to whom they will make payment, including postage, to be sent to the publisher, for the balance of the subscription. We have to say to the subscribers, that we have made arrangements for the delivery of the paper, and put an end to the complaints with which we were formerly troubled, and making the cost of the paper to the subscribers no greater than before, are very generally acceptable to our patrons. We hope to have an increase in our list in that place for the next volume.

SCHEMES IN REGARD TO FUGITIVES—VARIOUS VIEWS PRESENTED.

We have denounced the Fugitive Bill as a Disunion measure. It was originated by men in favor of a dissolution of the Union, who declared, while urging the bill, that they did not believe it would be efficacious in applying the law to the free States. They knew that it would exasperate the North, and cause disaffection to the Union in that section, and that its failure to be carried out would increase the irritation of the South, and dispose of it to look more favorably on their disorganizing schemes. Had they aimed alone at providing the best means for the recapture of slaves, they would have modified the bill so as to make it at least tolerable to the North. Sanguine legislators, in attempting to secure a certain object, will be careful to consult the state of public sentiment, framing their measures so that, if they cannot secure its active support, they may at least evade its active opposition.

We cannot better expose the use the Disunionists are aiming to make of this miserable law, than by copying the following article from the *Charleston Mercury*. To read the North and destroy the Union are the objects boldly avowed:

TO THE SLAVE OWNERS OF THE SOUTH.

"Further to read in our minds."

If it be true that thirty thousand fugitive slaves are in the non-slaveholding States, there cannot be much difficulty in applying the law to a sufficient number of cases, to test effectually the force of the Federal Government, in every anti-slavery State in the Union. The following suggestions are respectfully submitted:

1. In each Southern State the several District Southern Rights Associations may combine, by constituting a general committee for each State.

2. Every slave owner from whom any slave has run away within the last year, should report their names and descriptions of their personal appearance, together with any information which might aid in the discovery of their present location.

3. These reports should be laid before the general committee of the State.

4. Each general State Committee should appoint an agent, to visit and travel through the non-slaveholding States, and collect all the information that can be obtained, concerning the fugitive slaves. Reports showing their names, personal appearance, location, and history, should be made by their agents to the general committee appointing them.

5. By comparing the reports of the owners with those of the agents, many fugitive slaves would soon be identified, and their owners, advised and aided by the Associations, would proceed to reclaim them according to the forms of the act of Congress.

6. The enforcement of this law, with the restoration of Southern property, or the revocation of slavery in the North, by the preserving resolution to test the strength of the United States Government in a conflict with fanaticism, is an alternative worthy of those who associate for the protection of Southern Rights.

7. Whenever the issue is made, those who have an interest in the preservation of property, by the maintenance of law, will have to defend property in slavery, or abandon the law and peril their own security.

8. Faction and insurrection will probably conquer the Federal Government, whose officers, from President Fillmore and his Cabinet to the United States Marshal of New York, are shrinking under their sworn duty, and the impotence of the Union, except against the South, will be manifested.

9. The selfish politicians and their parties, who have coaxed and pulled Abolitionists by their votes, will find, like Acton, the dogs at their own throats.

10. Seward and Hale must either lead the revolution, or be its victims. Anti-slavery, being only the present war cry of the party, and not law and social order, will be forgotten when once disorder and the reign of terror begins.

11. From the North will come disunion and civil war, and the people of Massachusetts and New York, who soot at the State sovereignty, must have the insurrectionary Government of triumphant mobs.

12. Against those will the Star Spangled Banner of the Union be waved, and the sword, or far from their intestine anarchy and civil broils, will the South pursue the prosperous path of peace, under the flag which will float over their glorious Union.

All this is simply diabolical. South Carolina is no further concerned in this business, than she may wish to exasperate the two sections of the country against each other. The truth is, in the South generally, the Fugitive Slave Question is agitated more for political effect, than because the loss of slaves is greatly cared for. The fugitives who by their own efforts escape from bondage, would prove agitators of the most dangerous kind, if caught and taken back. Men who have once realized what it is to be free, if reduced again to slavery, will constitute elements of discontent and rebellion in the slave population. The slaveholders must know this.

Again, there are thousands of runaways at this time in the slave States. How many are haunting the dismal Swamp, and the bayous about New Orleans, and deserted plantations all through the South? Why is not agitation got up about them? Why do not the slaveholders complain of the indifference with which the People of the South regard their slave hunters? Southern gentlemen are not accustomed to volunteer or yield their services as slave-catchers. They are almost as passive as the People of the North when slave hunters are on foot, almost as little disposed to join in the hue and cry.

It is extremely folly to legislate against Public Sentiment, or much ahead of it. That which gives Law its vitality, especially in this country, is public opinion. Even legislation for good objects has been found fruitless, when too far in advance of the Sentiment of the People on whom it has to operate. Much less can laws accomplish their object, when it is one repugnant to every instinct of the Public Mind. Lawyers may prove them constitutional, the judges may deliver solemn charges against disobedience to them; ministerial and executive officers may all be prepared to enforce them—but every thing will be apt to fail in success.

To nullify them practically, it is not necessary forcibly to resist them, or to raise mobs against their enforcement. Simple passive non-conformity will render them impotent. You cannot force People anywhere, North or South, to catch runaway slaves, and until you can convince the slaveholder himself that to run away from bondage is a crime, you never can remedy the evil of which they complain. In the case of fugitives from justice, every man who desires to see his property and family secure, and hates crime, is interested in exposing the criminal to detection and seizure. No such motives operate in the case of fugitive slaves. Public feeling is never against them—the general sympathy is always with them. This cannot be helped. Human legislation cannot change the heart—cannot awaken sympathy with Slavery or abhorrence of Liberty. The running away of slaves is then an unavoidable "evil" in a slave country, because a necessary incident of the system of slavery. When men's laws are against Nature, they must not complain if sometimes Nature's laws assert their supremacy.

Certainly such considerations must have determined the phyllophony of that clause of the Constitution, so often quoted, in regard to the recapture of fugitives from service or labor. No active duty is imposed upon the States. Simple neutrality is required, as between the Slave and Slave Claimant. The language is unmistakable:

"No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or

labor, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

We said that duty was required by the Constitution from the State in which a fugitive is found, except that of simple neutrality; and, in the light of the clause just quoted, we now add, it was held by eminent jurists, for many years, that the duty of delivering up a fugitive was imposed on the States, and that it was for them to make suitable provision for the surrender. But the Supreme Court in the *Prigg* case decided otherwise. It held that the States had no right to pass laws to carry out this clause of the Constitution, but that the power to do so resided exclusively in Congress. This decision left the States positively nothing to do; and as Congress cannot go beyond the Constitution, any law it can pass requiring the citizens of the States, to interpose directly or indirectly in exposing, arresting, or delivering up fugitive slaves, is extra-constitutional, null and void.

Now, when it is recollected that the principal difficulty in the way of reclaiming fugitives in a section inhabited by ten millions of free men, grows out of the absence of all sympathy and cooperation on the part of these free men, the South must see that the "evil" it complains of is in most cases beyond the reach of any law that Congress can constitutionally enact. The hearts of the People must be changed, so that they shall feel as anxious for the arrest of a fugitive from injustice as they now feel for the arrest of a fugitive from justice, before it can be remedied. This, of course, is an impossibility. The spectre of Disunion itself cannot work so radical a revolution as this.

Meantime, all that the law can do, has been done. Under the old law of 1793, when a fugitive slave could be caught and taken before the proper tribunal, the process being efficient, he was delivered up; and when offenders against that law were detected and arraigned, they were punished. There was no resistance on the part of the proper tribunals, there was no interference by the States; there was no resistance by the citizens—or, if there were, they were invariably made to suffer the penalty.

The new law, in attempting to accomplish more, will fall of accomplishing as much. The very stringency of its provisions renders them impotent. But its supporters seem infatuated. With the fact staring them in the face, that it is odious beyond measure in the eyes of the People of the North, they appear anxious to perpetuate the determination to which it is held.

Instead of waiting to see whether the excitement will not subside, and attempting, quietly and guardedly to avail themselves of its provisions, they dispatch slave-hunters in hot haste into the free States, and announce, as above, formidable, all-comprehensive schemes for wholesale seizures, to be effected by a universal crusade against the North. If their object be to make the law perfectly impotent, to drive the North to madness, to provoke bloody collisions, and bring about a dissolution of the Union, the policy is admirably devised. Otherwise, its projects are no better than crazy people.

We close by submitting another presentation of the case to our Southern fellow-citizens. Now, the Union and under the Constitution, the obstacles you encounter in the recapture of fugitives in the free States are, the restrained hostility of a small body of free colored people, the antipathies with the fugitives of a few white persons, and the mere passivity of the great majority of the citizens of these States; but the State Laws and authorities are not against you, and you have in your favor the laws of Congress, administered by willing Courts, and executed by unreluctant officers.

This is your position in the Union. But you threaten Disunion, should the Fugitive Law, which, while more barbarous, is less efficacious than the Law of '93, be repealed. Of course, such a step would be taken as a remedy for the difficulties now existing in the way of the recapture of fugitives. How then would you stand as it respects this matter, out of the Union, and without the Constitution?

The Slaveholders, with the whole power of the Union to back them, cannot reclaim a slave from the soil of Canada. In the event of Disunion, the North would be Canada brought down upon the borders of the Slave States. Laws for the recapture of fugitives would exist no longer. Active hostility to such recapture would not be confined to small portions of the population, but would pervade all portions, and take the form of positive laws, making the seizure of any person on the soil as a felony.

What would the South have gained by Disunion? We need not add another word: the case is too plain to be misunderstood by the least unthinking.

"A FEW REFLECTIONS ON A NORTHERN TOUR."

The editor of the *Richmond (Va.) Examiner*, who lately travelled at the North, favors his readers with "A few reflections on a Northern Tour." He thinks the interior country of New England and New York, unproductive. In the valley of the Genesee, and in the low lands of the Connecticut, there are rich lands, but nowhere else! All the rest is poorer "than the poorest and most thoroughly worn down country in Virginia."

"The miserable crops of rubbish it might produce would be insufficient for the most frugal population."

"The peculiarities of landscape which catch the traveller's eye as he whirled past upon the roads of granite and iron, and the borders of dark woods, are not more thickly upon these barren fields than the stumps of a new clearing; the rivulets without banks, lying like snakes on the surface of the swampy meadows; the stunted larch and pine, the absence of all large trees, the corn and higher than the knee, the endless hamlets and villages, unbroken by the chateau and plantation of a slaveholding country; the perfection of the double tracked, heavily railed roads, the magnitude of the cities which they connect."

"In these last the tourist finds the secret of Northern prosperity and power."

"It is the country of trade, and not of production. It has been built by laws, and not by nature. The action of the Federal Government has thrown the country into the hands of the slaveholder. Through the navigation acts they get the handling of all the products of the South, and in the handling they necessarily touch the profits. Hence the North, which has no land, has all the money. What would have they for a rich soil and a general sun, so long as the Federal Government submits to them the glorious South, and farms for them the boundless fields of cotton and the widespread plantations of sugar? Good citizens and great planters in a land of rock and frost, tell the tale too well to be ever misunderstood."

The Navigation Laws were intended for the benefit of the whole country. The materials of ship building abound in the South as well as the North. The Southern people were equally free with the Northern to build ships, avail themselves of the benefits of the Navigation laws, and engage in trade and commerce. If they did not, it was their own fault, not that of the Federal Government. It is not for that Government to meddle with the industrial pursuits of the country, and instruct people how to secure the most profitable investment of their labor and capital. Although the Navigation Laws held out inducements to Southerners to engage in commerce, and to their own carrying trade, they preferred, or were compelled by the nature of their labor system, to direct their attention and capital to planting; and the Northern people, having nothing but "rubbish" to live upon, took to salt water and steam. That's all. The Federal Government is blameless.

Now, if the people of the South desire to go ahead of the North in manufactures and commerce, let them adopt the free labor system, and without any change in the action of the Federal Government, they would soon find Labor as diversified, and Capital as ingenious, enterprising, and cumulative, as they are at the North.

As our Yankee friends have a pretty good opinion of themselves, the following observation on their ugliness will be apt to make them feel rather merry.

"The people who inhabit this sterile, but wealthy region, are inferior to those of this and the neighboring States in stature and in countenance. In truth, it is inhabited by a race of singular ugliness. Never before did the writer see so many people of both sexes with so few specimens of physical beauty, as during a three weeks' tour in New England. Beautiful women may sometimes be seen in the streets of New York; and through the villages and steamboats of the Hudson, healthy faces and good figures are occasionally to be met with. But in New England itself, the red and white of a Northern complexion is not sufficient to reconcile the beholder to the decidedly ugly physiognomies which they cover, or to the most figure and ungraceful striding gait which accompany both. Their manners are in every sense bad; either haughty and vulgar, or cringing and faggy; seldom possessing even among the wealthiest and best educated classes, that repose and self-respecting courtesy which mark the same rank at the South. The cause is evident. In the North there are no gentry—no class living apart and upon their own paternal estates, handing down their means without much increase or serious diminution to their heirs, possessing time to inform their intellect, to cultivate the amenities of life, and to learn the sentiment of self-respect. The subdivision of the land, the absence of slaves for menial labor, more than three-fourths of the population being engaged in commerce, and the occupation of the whole country, forbid the existence of such a class—necessary to give the tone of manners and of morals as well, to which allusion has been made."

As an offset to this, we have heard Northern tourists suggest, that the Americans in the South are too fastidious in the distinctive character of the Anglo-Saxon race, and becoming a kind of colored people, and then the way some of them abuse Southern manners, Southern houses, Southern eating and drinking, would excite the amazement of our contemporary of the *Examiner*.

Living, as we do, on the line between them, it is hard to say which we like better, when they behave themselves like good Christians.

THE INFLUENCE TO WHICH CONGRESS AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ARE SUBJECTED IN WASHINGTON.

In this Republic of twenty-two millions of people, the number of actual slaveholders, at the largest estimate, cannot exceed three hundred thousand—or, one in seventy-three of the white population.

The non-slaveholding States embrace two-thirds of the white people of the country, and more than two-thirds of its wealth and intelligence.

The anti-slavery sentiment, which prevailed at the date of the Revolution in all the States then existing, except Georgia and South Carolina, now pervades the population of the sixteen, or, counting Delaware, the seventeen free States, and is cherished by large numbers of the citizens of the fourteen slaveholding States.

A person, ignorant of our history and unfamiliar with the workings of powerful Class Interests, apprised, for the first time, of the facts just stated, would naturally expect that the domestic institutions at the seat of Government of such a Republic would be in harmony with the ideas and interests of the vast majority of its citizens; and that the central Public Press would reflect the public sentiment of the great non-slaveholding population.

What are the facts? We find existing in the Capital of the nation, a system rampant to the feelings and opinions of at least two-thirds of the white people of the country—the direct antagonist of their domestic institutions. It is sustained here, not because the interests of the city and District require it—they would be promoted by its abolition—not because the People here desire it;—if at liberty to declare their opinion, four-fifths of them would require its removal—but because its legislation by Congress, in this spot, gives sanction and support to the system maintained by the small but powerful class of slaveholders throughout the South, and secures to them the means of controlling, to a great extent, the deliberations of the National Legislature.

Politics must be shaped and colored more or less by social influences. The character and institutions of the community in which a legislative body deliberates must affect its decisions. "This is our own soil," said Mr. Clingman, triumphantly, when defying the Northern majority in Congress; and there was not a man of that majority who did not at once feel the disadvantage under which non-slaveholding Representatives labored in deliberation upon slaveholding soil. The genius of the place was against them. If they spoke for freedom, hostile faces frowned upon them from the gallery. Loyalty to their constituents was not to be rewarded, at Washington, with social proscription, as it is to be at some other significant fact. From the time when the *National Era* was established here, four years ago, the Political Press at Washington, no matter what Parties representing, was the organ of the Slaveholding Interest. It never represented or defended anti-slavery, or, as they are sometimes called, Northern Principles. One Administration succeeded another—Parties rose and fell—but through all vicissitudes of Federal, Democratic, Whig, and "Locofoco" rule, the Political Press in Washington maintained unalterable allegiance to the Slave Power. It might disregard, defy, affront the Sentiment prevailing among the millions of non-slaveholders, respecting Slavery, but it was always respectful and amenable to the Sentiment of the few hundred thousand slaveholders. Whatever other interests it might neglect, it was always prompt to defend Slavery against all assaults, direct or indirect, come from what quarter they might.

The establishment of our paper was the beginning of a new era in Washington. For the last four years, the Anti-slavery Sentiment of the Republic, a sentiment which was cherished by its founders, and now pervades the masses of the People of this country, has had at least a weekly organ through which it could find voice and vindication. But, even now, look at the odds in favor of Slavery.

Last week we sent out a Circular to our ex-scribers, from which we take the liberty of republishing the following remarks:

Five leading papers are now printed in the City of Washington, representing as many different classes of ideas.

The *National Intelligencer* represents predominantly the Conservatism of the country. It reveres the Past, and is disturbed at the Present, looks suspiciously upon all Reforms, and abhors agitation, especially on the subject of Slavery. It rejects the Anti-slavery sentiment, and, without being a partisan of Slavery, condemns all who would question its pretensions or resist its demands.

The *Washington Union* was established under the auspices of Mr. Polk, by Thomas Ritchie, of Virginia. It assumes to be the central organ of the Democratic Party, but is a supporter of Democracy only so far as it does not conflict with Slavery. Without advocating that system on abstract grounds, it urges its most extravagant pretensions—demands for it supreme consideration—denounces, vilifies, abuses, all who oppose it. It is the organ of those slaveholders, who believe that the Democracy of the North is the natural ally of Slavery, and that their interests can be best promoted through the Democratic organization.

The *Republic* was got up to sustain the Administration of General Taylor, and, towards the close of his career, was tolerant to Anti-slavery men. Since the accession of Mr. Fillmore, it has changed hands, and is now the exponent of the policy of Mr. Webster, and the organ of Whig Unionism. In bitterness of invective against Anti-slavery men of all classes, it rivals the *Union*.

The *Southern Press* was commenced last winter, by a Committee of Members of Congress from the South, of whom Mr. Stephens, and Mr. Editor, are avowed Editors. It advocates Slavery upon its merits, and insists upon a Dissolution of the Union as the only effectual means of maintaining the independence of the South.

The first three of these Journals are Party papers, but they countenance the union of the thinkers of all parties for the purpose of suppressing Anti-slavery agitation, and hold that the doctrine of Human Rights, in its application to the condition of the three million slaves of this country, is not and ought not to be an article in either the Whig or Democratic creed.

The fourth Journal is against all parties as at present organized, and urges the policy of uniting the South in one great Sectional Party against the North.

All these papers, with their three-fold issues, daily, tri-weekly, and weekly, wage war against the Anti-slavery movement, and give no quarter to its supporters. They blazon the words and acts of pro-slavery members of Congress, attempt to put down Anti-slavery members by cold neglect or unscrupulous misrepresentation and description, and to bring such a pressure of influences to bear on the National Legislature and the Executive, as to make them subservient to the requirements of slaveholders.

While the Slave Interest has four organs to maintain its pretensions, three of them liberally endowed with Executive patronage, and the fourth with a fund furnished by slaveholders, the Cause of Freedom has but one organ, and that, a weekly, carefully excluded from all Government patronage, and relying alone upon its own subscribers for support. The *National Era* is the only paper at the seat of the Federal Government, which represents the Free Sentiment of the North; which advocates the rights and interests of the non-slaveholders of the country against the usurpations of the Slave Power; which holds that all parties, in a Republic founded on the doctrine of Human Rights, should maintain that doctrine primarily and foremost in their creed and policy, and which contends that all political questions and organizations should be held subordinate to the great question of Personal Freedom; which is an advocate at once of Liberty and the Union, and great Peace and Harmony, not by concession to Wrong, but by enforcement of Right; which, while maligning no member of Congress on sectional grounds, sustains specially those who are devoted to the Cause of Freedom, and labors to direct upon the National Legislature and Executive the Anti-slavery Sentiment of the country.

Since the foregoing was written, the Prospectus of a new Daily, styled "The Constitution," to be published in this city, has appeared in the newspapers. The following extracts show the character of the new project.

"Evil influences from abroad have found their way amongst them, and smothered the flames which ought never to subside in American bosoms. In this section of the country, an ignis fatuus has been held up as a light to a better prospect; in another, the moral sentiment has been stimulated to manhood, with the design of effecting a collision between the North and the South, and a dissolution of the Union. Even now, the missionaries of ruin, scattering blood from afar, are hovering, like vultures, in the hope of a conflict."

"It is high time, therefore, for patriotic Americans—men of both the old parties—to throw aside their old trammels and divisions, and to unite in one greater party, for the salvation of the country. It is high time that they should wake from the slumber of false security, and look their real danger in the face; to reassert their true American character, and resolve, with an energy never to be relaxed, that no foreign or domestic foe shall stay the course of their country's glorious destiny."

"It will be the earnest purpose of 'The Constitution' faithfully to represent the sentiments of the Union party. It will recognize no man as a Whig or as a Democrat, but every one as a friend or a foe to the Union, and to the rights of the people. It will advocate those measures and only those which the Union party will sanction."

It needs no wizard to tell what will be the course of this new paper. It will go for the party which was lately organized under the auspices of the *New York Evening Post*, styled, "the Haberdashers' Meeting" in New York, the party represented by the *Journal of Commerce* and *New York Herald*, the party of which Daniel Webster would desire to be the recognised head. Its policy in relation to Slavery will be precisely that of the *Washington Republic*.

Cannot the friends of Freedom understand how difficult it is for the Representatives of non-slaveholding constituencies to do their duty in a place encompassed with such influences? Leaving out of view the *National Era*, what is there to encourage, what is there not to discourage them? We know the power of the Press—how it can make and unmake heroes; how it can disseminate Truth or a Lie; how it can assault or misrepresent Public Sentiment; how it can mould or inflame Popular Excitements; how it can remove or strengthen Prejudice. The representative of a non-slaveholding constituency, when he takes his seat in Congress, finds himself at the mercy of four or five powerful and popular pro-slavery journals. If he manifest any spirit in carrying out the wishes of his constituents, he is denationalized—he is sectional—he is an agitator—he is a fanatic—he is an incendiary. True, a few journals may agree in nothing else but in disparaging, misrepresenting, or abusing him. And daily he finds upon his desk the issues of these journals, filled with extracts from the newspapers, North and South, calculated to build him up with the illusion that Public Opinion is against him, and a horrible catastrophe is impending, which can only be averted by the success of measures, to resist which he was sent to Congress. To breast such influences, to see through them, to overcome them, requires more nerve and sagacity than falls to the lot of ordinary men.

Let, too, the pressures brought to bear upon the Chief Executive. The President and his Cabinet advisers, unless they supply themselves with information from other quarters of the country, cannot fail to be misled as to the Public Sentiment, and the state of things out of Washington. For example, a few days ago, as if by a preconcerted movement, the *Republic* and the *Union* each, on the same day, contained an exposition of affairs in the South, filling some four or five columns in each paper, calculated to alarm the Administration, and lead it to still further concession to the slaveholders. But, of the excitement at the North, of the public opinion at that section in opposition to the Fugitive Law, in vain you look for any fair exhibition in any of the journals in this city.

May the time speedily come when the influences here shall all be on the side of Freedom, when the atmosphere shall not be tainted with the miasm of Slavery, and when the organs of all parties shall be the advocates in truth of "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever."

MEAN WEIGHT OF MEN, IN RELATION TO HEIGHT.

Dr. Hutchinson, in a recent work, has some curious calculations in relation to the mean weight of men of different heights. He examined nearly three hundred men, in the prime of life, capable of, and accustomed to, great muscular exertion, and the results of his observation are presented in the following table.

Height, Feet. Inches. Weight, Pounds.

5	1	125
5	2	130
5	3	135
5	4	140
5	5	145
5	6	150
5	7	155
5	8	160
5	9	165
5	10	170
5	11	175
6	0	180

A stone in Great Britain weighs fourteen pounds.

FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL—THIRD EDITION.

Just published and for sale by William Har-

persing Anti-slavery agitation, and hold that the doctrine of Human Rights, in its application to the condition of the three million slaves of this country, is not and ought not to be an article in either the Whig or Democratic creed.

The fourth Journal is against all parties as at present organized, and urges the policy of uniting the South in one great Sectional Party against the North.

All these papers, with their three-fold issues, daily, tri-weekly, and weekly, wage war against the Anti-slavery movement, and give no quarter to its supporters. They blazon the words and acts of pro-slavery members of Congress, attempt to put down Anti-slavery members by cold neglect or unscrupulous misrepresentation and description, and to bring such a pressure of influences to bear on the National Legislature and the Executive, as to make them subservient to the requirements of slaveholders.

While the Slave Interest has four organs to maintain its pretensions, three of them liberally endowed with Executive patronage, and the fourth with a fund furnished by slaveholders, the Cause of Freedom has but one organ, and that, a weekly, carefully excluded from all Government patronage, and relying alone upon its own subscribers for support. The *National Era* is the only paper at the seat of the Federal Government, which represents the Free Sentiment of the North; which advocates the rights and interests of the non-slaveholders of the country against the usurpations of the Slave Power; which holds that all parties, in a Republic founded on the doctrine of Human Rights, should maintain that doctrine primarily and foremost in their creed and policy, and which contends that all political questions and organizations should be held subordinate to the great question of Personal Freedom; which is an advocate at once of Liberty and the Union, and great Peace and Harmony, not by concession to Wrong, but by enforcement of Right; which, while maligning no member of Congress on sectional grounds, sustains specially those who are devoted to the Cause of Freedom, and labors to direct upon the National Legislature and Executive the Anti-slavery Sentiment of the country.

Since the foregoing was written, the Prospectus of a new Daily, styled "The Constitution," to be published in this city, has appeared in the newspapers. The following extracts show the character of the new project.

"Evil influences from abroad have found their way amongst them, and smothered the flames which ought never to subside in American bosoms. In this section of the country, an ignis fatuus has been held up as a light to a better prospect; in another, the moral sentiment has been stimulated to manhood, with the design of effecting a collision between the North and the South, and a dissolution of the Union. Even now, the missionaries of ruin, scattering blood from afar, are hovering, like vultures, in the hope of a conflict."

"It is high time, therefore, for patriotic Americans—men of both the old parties—to throw aside their old trammels and divisions, and to unite in one greater party, for the salvation of the country. It is high time that they should wake from the slumber of false security, and look their real danger in the face; to reassert their true American character, and resolve, with an energy never to be relaxed, that no foreign or domestic foe shall stay the course of their country's glorious destiny."

"It will be the earnest purpose of 'The Constitution' faithfully to represent the sentiments of the Union party. It will recognize no man as a Whig or as a Democrat, but every one as a friend or a foe to the Union, and to the rights of the people. It will advocate those measures and only those which the Union party will sanction."

It needs no wizard to tell what will be the course of this new paper. It will go for the party which was lately organized under the auspices of the *New York Evening Post*, styled, "the Haberdashers' Meeting" in New York, the party represented by the *Journal of Commerce* and *New York Herald*, the party of which Daniel Webster would desire to be the recognised head. Its policy in relation to Slavery will be precisely that of the *Washington Republic*.

Cannot the friends of Freedom understand how difficult it is for the Representatives of non-slaveholding constituencies to do their duty in a place encompassed with such influences? Leaving out of view the *National Era*, what is there to encourage, what is there not to discourage them? We know the power of the Press—how it can make and unmake heroes; how it can disseminate Truth or a Lie; how it can assault or misrepresent Public Sentiment; how it can mould or inflame Popular Excitements; how it can remove or strengthen Prejudice. The representative of a non-slaveholding constituency, when he takes his seat in Congress, finds himself at the mercy of four or five powerful and popular pro-slavery journals. If he manifest any spirit in carrying out the wishes of his constituents, he is denationalized—he is sectional—he is an agitator—he is a fanatic—he is an incendiary. True, a few journals may agree in nothing else but in disparaging, misrepresenting, or abusing him. And daily he finds upon his desk the issues of these journals, filled with extracts from the newspapers, North and South, calculated to build him up with the illusion that Public Opinion is against him, and a horrible catastrophe is impending, which can only be averted by the success of measures, to resist which he was sent to Congress. To breast such influences, to see through them, to overcome them, requires more nerve and sagacity than falls to the lot of ordinary men.

Let, too, the pressures brought to bear upon the Chief Executive. The President and his Cabinet advisers, unless they supply themselves with information from other quarters of the country, cannot fail to be misled as to the Public Sentiment, and the state of things out of Washington. For example, a few days ago, as if by a preconcerted movement, the *Republic* and the *Union* each, on the same day, contained an exposition of affairs in the South, filling some four or five columns in each paper, calculated to alarm the Administration, and lead it to still further concession to the slaveholders. But, of the excitement at the North, of the public opinion at that section in opposition to the Fugitive Law, in vain you look for any fair exhibition in any of the journals in this city.

May the time speedily come when the influences here shall all be on the side of Freedom, when the atmosphere shall not be tainted with the miasm of Slavery, and when the organs of all parties shall be the advocates in truth of "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable, now and forever."

MEAN WEIGHT OF MEN, IN RELATION TO HEIGHT.

Dr. Hutchinson, in a recent work, has some curious calculations in relation to the mean weight of men of different heights. He examined nearly three hundred men, in the prime of life, capable of, and accustomed to, great muscular exertion, and the results of his observation are presented in the following table.

Height, Feet. Inches. Weight, Pounds.

5	1	125
5	2	130
5	3	135
5	4	140
5	5	145
5	6	150
5	7	155
5	8	160
5	9	165
5	10	170
5	11	175
6	0	180

A stone in Great Britain weighs fourteen pounds.

FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL—THIRD EDITION.